



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Last Bell Official Sentenced in Massive Public Corruption Scandal

The last of seven convicted former Bell officials was sentenced today, ending one of the largest public corruptions cases in county history, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Superior Court Judge Kathleen Kennedy sentenced Victor Bello to one year in county jail and placed him on probation for five years. He also was ordered to complete 500 hours of community service and to pay more than \$177,600 in restitution to the City of Bell.

Deputy District Attorneys Sean Hassett and Edward Miller with the Public Integrity Division prosecuted the case.

Bello, along with former Mayor Oscar Hernandez, Vice Mayor Teresa Jacobo and former Councilmembers George Mirabal and George Cole, were convicted last year of stealing a total of nearly \$1 million.

The five hiked their pay by voting for illegal raises and creating sham boards and commissions that never met or convened for only minutes a year.

When Bello first became a Bell councilman in 1998, he earned \$434 a month. When he resigned his council seat in August 2009, he was earning nearly \$100,000 annually.

Jacobob was sentenced to two years in state prison. Hernandez and Mirabal were sentenced to one year each in county jail. Cole was sentenced to 180 days of home confinement with an ankle monitor.

All were ordered to pay hefty restitution amounts to the City of Bell.

The main architects of the scheme that left the city of 35,000 near bankruptcy were sentenced in April. Bell's former chief administrative officer Robert Rizzo was sentenced to 12 years in state prison and ordered to pay \$8.8 million in restitution. His assistant, Pier' Angela Spaccia, was sentenced to 11 years, eight months in state prison and ordered to pay \$8.2 million in restitution to the city.

Together, their sentences represent the longest prison terms for convicted public officials since the Public Integrity Division was established in 2001.

The case was investigated by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

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**About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.